

**SPEECH BY THE HEAD OF THE PASSPORT DIVISION
MR. KOURIS**

Your Excellency, President of the Hellenic Republic,

It is an exceptional honor for our Agency to have you here with us today.

It is with great joy that we can now inaugurate the installation and operation of our Agency in a modern space, which is fully functional and has been constructed in accordance with the highest European standards.

Our Agency has been equipped with the most sophisticated technological tools.

The printing system at the core of our Agency is of Japanese manufacture by TOPPAN Company.

Our Division cannot accept, for security reasons, any direct contact with citizens.

All applications are submitted to regional Agencies domestically and to the consular offices abroad.

They are then transferred to our Division exclusively through a safe courier system.

Upon reception of all necessary supporting documents, all applications are first entered into our system, they are then processed and the passport is printed. After that we control the passport's quality, we classify the passport and prepare it to be sent back to the Agency where the application had been filed, again using the system of safe courier transportation.

Our Agency has exclusive competence on drawing up technical features and security measures for the new Hellenic Passport. This is why we have set up an investigation and development department, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, so that the new passport can be one of the safest passports in the entire world.

The Passport Division comprises 5 Departments and is manned with 185 Police Officers, Lieutenants and Constables on morning and afternoon shifts.

Addressing the Political and Operational Leadership of the Hellenic Police Force, both I and the staff promise you to work in a hard and conscientious manner in order to succeed in this difficult task, cooperating with all competent Authorities to this purpose. We believe that we shall rise up to the expectations of the citizens.

I would like to thank the Management of the Bank of Greece for producing the printed booklet of passports.

Last but not least, I would like to thank PRINTEC & SPACE SA for complying with the contractual obligations related to the provision and maintenance of the passport issuing computerized system.

Thank you very much.